

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended).

A therapeutic method for the treatment of ophthalmic diseases of the posterior segment of the eye comprising the intravenous or topical ocular administration of a therapeutically effective amount ~~of a pharmaceutical composition comprising~~ solid lipidic nanoparticles (SLN) containing comprising a pharmacologically active substance suitable for the treatment of said ophthalmic diseases, wherein said SLNs are prepared by:

a) admixing a molten lipid substance containing a drug or its complex with a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a cosurfactant and optionally a counterion of the drug, pre-warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance, thus obtaining a microemulsion having a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of said lipid substance;

b) dispersing the microemulsion obtained in step a) in water or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature comprised between 2 and 5.degree. C., thus obtaining a dispersion of solid lipidic nanoparticles incorporating the drug;

c) washing the dispersion obtained in step b) with water or with an aqueous medium by diafiltration with the almost total

elimination of the surfactant and the cosurfactant:

d) drying the dispersion obtained in step c) by lyophilisation or by spray drying or by evaporation, thus obtaining the solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) with the drug incorporated.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (New). The therapeutic method according to claim 11,

wherein the microemulsion obtained in step a) is added to a mixture comprising water, a surfactant, a co-surfactant and optionally a lipid warmed to a temperature at least equal to the melting temperature of the lipid and the mixture thus obtained is dispersed in water or in an aqueous medium cooled to a temperature from 2 to 5° C.

Claim 23. (New). The therapeutic method according to claim 11,

wherein at the end of step a) a substance suitable for stabilising the SLNs is added selected from the group comprising dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG, diacyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-PEG (PEG M. W. 750-2000) and fatty acids pegylated with PEG-methylethers (PEG M.W. 750-2000).

Claim 24 (New). The therapeutic method according to claim 11,

wherein the lipid of said SLNs is selected from the group comprising trilaurine, tricapriloïn, tristearine, tripalmitine,

capric/caprylic triglycerides, dipalmitine, distearine, glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl palmitostearate, cetylic alcohol, stearyl alcohol, fatty acids having C10-C22 chains, cholesterol, cholesteryl hemisuccinate, cholesteryl butyrate and cholesteryl palmitate.

Claim 25 (New). The therapeutic method according to claim 11,

wherein said pharmacologically active substance is selected from the group comprising: amphotericin, miconazole, ganciclovir, saquinavir, acyclovir, famciclovir, vidarabine, idoxuridine, .beta.-interferon, paclitaxel, methotrexate, doxorubicin, angiopoietin 1, diclophenac, indomethacin, ketorolac, piroxicam, flurbiprofen, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, hydrocortisone, fluorometholone, rimexolone, timolol, betaxolol and acetazolamide.

Claim 26 (New). The therapeutic method according to claim 11,

wherein the dosage for intravenous administration is an amount of said composition containing 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance per kilogram of body weight.

Claim 27 (New). The therapeutic method according claim 11, wherein the dosage for topical ocular administration is an amount of said composition containing 0.01-5.0 milligrams of active substance for each eye.

Claim 28 (New). The therapeutic method according to claim 11,

wherein said SLNs have a pharmacologically active substance content comprised from 0.1 and 7.0%.